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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 557
By Head

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study election laws and the effect of automation on the electoral process.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Election Code was last rewritten in 1972; and

WHEREAS, since that time the use of automation in the electoral process has increased dramatically; and

WHEREAS, the controversy surrounding the 2000 presidential election has led to questions concerning the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly should conduct comprehensive studies of all issues that affect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study election laws, especially relative to the automation of the electoral process in both voter registration and voting

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machines and especially relative to the effect this automation might play in reducing the number of polling places needed by the counties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of five (5) members of the Senate and five (5) members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in the course of its deliberations the special joint committee shall review the present statutory scheme of procedures used in voter registration and at the respective polling places and recommend legislation to make appropriate statutory revisions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall also study the feasibility of creating a voting period that would culminate on election day and allow counties to eliminate or greatly reduce the number of polling places needed on election day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the coordinator of elections and any other appropriate state agency shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee may call upon members of the Tennessee Association of County Election Officials for their insight and expertise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly; and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One

Hundred Second General Assembly no later than February 1, 2002, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.